

Superintendent's Report for DEC
April 14, 2021

ENDS #1: Provide positive, safe, healthy, and inclusive learning and working environments for children, youth, and staff. On Saturday evening, April 3, 2021 Public Health informed us of an outbreak at Loch Lomond Elementary School in Saint John Education Centre – by 8:45 p.m. the letter went to all school families confirming a positive case, and Principal Greg Norton quickly collected for Public Health the contact information of students and staff members identified as close contacts. Public Health were able to begin their calls on Sunday morning. On Monday, April 5, 2021 additional sanitizing and cleaning was carried out at the school. Classes resumed on Tuesday as planned with some students participating in virtual learning while in isolation. This school was well prepared for the situation with information ready to share, visitor logs available, as well as staff attendance data. The early April outbreak was our first since February, and this brings the number of schools with an outbreak or potential exposure to 12 – Simonds High, Harbour View High, Hampton Middle, Rothesay High, Millidgeville North, Belleisle Elementary, Quispamsis Middle, Lakefield Elementary, Princess Elizabeth, St. Stephen High School, and Kennebecasis Valley High.

Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator Clare Tooley continues to make her in-person visits to schools to review their operational plans, using the check list shared with DEC in March 2021. If the visits cannot be made in-person, the plan is reviewed from the website and any areas of concern discussed. When possible, the two Healthy Learners Nurses participate as well. We continue to be grateful for the expertise of these three staff members.

On March 19, 2021 the announcement was made that all high school students would return to in-person classes on Monday, April 12, 2021. Students with medical documentation will continue with a home learning program supported by a team of teachers and in-home tutors – we currently have 105 students from K-12 receiving a home learning program, and thanks to Subject Coordinator Amy Marshall for championing this new initiative. Currently ASD-S has three high schools where all students have been attending in-person each day – Campobello Island Community School, Belleisle Regional High School and for second semester, Sir James Dunn Academy. We have 11 high schools preparing for the return of all students. This means changes to the Operational Plan which will include students wearing masks during the day except when eating or engaged in physical activity, and teachers/staff unless they are eating or in an office/classroom by themselves. Each teacher must have a seating plan for each class in the event this information is required for contact tracing. Schools are also asked to open additional spaces as available for noon and breaks. Students will be asked to bring their laptops daily – while the home learning on-line is being replaced by daily face-to-face learning, teachers will continue to use the new platforms and tools so that in the event of a school closure due to an outbreak, classes will be offered on-line. Using TEAMS and posting materials for students to use asynchronously to enhance learning and the on-line tools which support best practices in assessment and instruction will be encouraged. Considerable teacher PD has been offered since spring 2020 and we want to continue to build on this post-pandemic.

Adjustments have been made to bussing to accommodate the return of all high school students – some parents will be assisting by transporting their students for morning/after school or both. All students at 6-12 will wear masks on the bus, and if a bus run with K-5 now has additional students from middle/high all will be masked. Communication around this will be sent to families.

High schools are in the planning stages for honoring graduates – there is no plan for hosting end of year activities this year such as proms, in-person award ceremonies, church services, traditional large

graduations, marches and Safe Grad. High schools will be working within Public Health and Public Safety protocols to ensure students and families are recognized and celebrated during the important milestone of graduation.

The Department of Education has also announced that community use of schools will begin for the first time since March 13, 2020 when schools closed. Rentals are only for community groups offering programs for school aged students, and each group must submit an Operational Plan to Clare Tooley, Occupational Health and Wellness Coordinator. This week Clare has offered her feedback and support to community groups on their operational plans. Spectators are not to be inside the school and changing rooms cannot be used. If equipment is used, it is to be sanitized by the group, using our cleaning product. It will be very important that each group have an accounting of who is participating in the event in case contact tracing is required. If rentals are on the weekends, casual custodians will be hired, and they will have explicit directions on their role with the rental group. We welcome the community use of our schools but need to put all the checks in place to ensure everyone stays safe.

We recently had 39 teachers, including a few administrators, participate in Asynchronous EAL Professional Learning which included six modules that covered EAL Curriculum, CEFR (assessment tool), classroom strategies, reading instruction, writing instruction and formative assessment. All but two participants completed all six modules which required a reflection and an action plan to be sent to Kathy Whynot, a Learning Specialist at the Department. Kathy graciously reviewed them all and interacted with each one of these teachers. Already we are seeing some positive results and will plan to offer it again. We have seven teachers/coordinators signed up for training being offered by EECD on Culturally & Linguistically Inclusive Schools. This is a 30 hour online asynchronous PL and will emphasize the experiences of New Brunswick students, parents and staff, as well as allow time to examine and discuss cultural and linguistic supports/strategies (i.e. Intentional and Scaffolded Language Teaching, Culturally Responsive Pedagogy, UDL (Universal Design for Learning, and Response to Intervention – RTI). Provincially twenty-one were accepted, and the seven ASD-S participants include Stephanie Hollett (Princess Elizabeth), Karen Welch (Bayside Middle), VP Matt Kernighan (St. George), Martha Garey and Laura Taylor (Subject Coordinators) Jane Proctor (Sussex Middle) and Caitlin Udall (Island View). These schools would not have large populations of Newcomers/International students, with the exception of Princess Elizabeth School, but it is good that we are building capacity in the District.

ENDS #2: Demonstrate continuous improvement by increasing engagement through innovative teaching and assessment practices, promoting mental fitness through social-emotional learning. A two-day session of Mental Health First Aid was held last week facilitated by Jennifer Grant and Peter Smith. The majority of educators in attendance were those who are participating in the UNB Guidance Counsellor Cohort receiving their training in Saint John. A couple of new counsellors participated as well as a new Vice Principal. An additional course will be offered in May for the twelve new middle school Behavior Intervention Mentors and we hope to offer another over the summer.

The Technology Coaches have started supporting high school teachers as they prepare for the arrival of all students full time. During “blended learning,” students were using their new laptops during class primarily as a communication tool. With all high schools capable of BYOD (Bring Your Own Device), teachers are developing new lesson plans to make use of the new technology available to their classes to supplement their teaching.

School Heritage Fairs have taken place and participating schools have sent the winners to the Regional Heritage Fair which was virtual. Jaelyn Clark, a grade 3 student from Inglewood School in Grand

Bay/Westfield made the news with her Saint John City Market model. I taped a short congratulatory message for the Regional Fair. Thank you to St. Stephen Education Centre teacher Brittany Gowan Noble who has led this initiative for a few years.

A series of nine PD sessions on Global Competencies were provided to teachers to support them in using the GCs to enhance teaching and learning. An Indigenous traditional games professional learning took place on Saturday, March 27, 2021 at Forest Hills School. Renee Cameron, an EA from Bayside Middle who is Ojibwe gave a powerful presentation to teachers attending on her life story about residential schools and intergenerational trauma.

The Early Career Teacher Program facilitated by Coordinators Nicole MacNeill and Martha Garey has concluded. A total of 27 teachers from across the District participated and four sets of meetings were held. Participants received release time for teacher observations and each received some free resources.

Many after-school PD sessions have taken place to support French Second Language – FLORA (French Language Opportunities for Rural Areas), shared reading, reading comprehension at middle level, and post-intensive French. French proficiency courses continue to be offered in various formats – there have been approximately 90 teachers who participated in classes this year with the goal of increasing their proficiency level. In April, sessions will be offered to some elementary schools by Renee Bourgoin, author of the resource, “Access for Success,” which explores practices and research in inclusion within FSL programs and to explore inclusive pedagogies that support FI student’s language and learning needs.

In numeracy, a group of 12 middle school teachers will join Coordinator Jennifer Keilty and Coach Diane O’Keefe for a book study of “Open Middle Math,” by Robert Kaplinsky. April 14 is the national, TALK WITH OUR KIDS ABOUT MONEY DAY which will be promoted in ASD-S.

Optional numeracy formative assessment tools for term three were created for K-5 and shared with our teachers and with Subject Coordinators from other Districts, as they were for terms one and two. These have been popular in our District and others and a resource our team is very proud of. A math coach and our fine arts coach collaborated on offering a PL on math and art and another is planned for April 22, 2021. Numeracy Subject Coordinator Chantal Barsalou and one of her coaches will be hosting a 6-week Book Club around the work of Canadian author Deanna Pecaski McLennan’s book, “Joyful Math: Invitations to Play and Explore in the Early Childhood Classroom” with twenty teachers for K-5. The math specialists have a TEAMS site for elementary numeracy and have over 700 members at this point in the year!

ENDS #4: Maximize the engagement of families and the community through effective communication and outreach.

March 17, 2021	Reminder- Calendar Change	Message to Families	Email	School messenger, social media
March 19, 2021	Full Return for High School	Message to High School families	Email, website	School messenger, social media
March 21, 2021	High School Vaccination Clinics SSEC	Message to SSEC families	Email to SSEC families	School messenger, social media

March 22, 2021	High School Vaccination Clinics HEC	Message to HEC families	Email to HEC families	School messenger, social media
March 22, 2021	High School Vaccination Clinics SJEC	Message to SJEC families	Email to SJEC families	School messenger, social media
March 30, 2021	Become a DEC Candidate	Info and links	News item	Website, social media
April 3, 2021	Confirmed case at LLS	Message to LLS families	Email to LLS Families	School messenger

Planned media

March 11	<i>"Bag Ban passes"</i>	Brunswick News	Hampton High Students	
March 23	<i>Information Morning - Saint John: Schools in southern New Brunswick close for immunization blitz of high school staff</i>	CBC Info morning	Interview-ZW	https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-28/clip/15832917
March 26	<i>Extraordinary in every way – SJHS student wins prestigious \$100K Scholarship</i>	Brunswick News	Patricia Gallagher	
April 06	<i>Districts Prepare Buses, Schools For Return Of High School Students</i>	Acadia Broadcasting	Interview - ZW	https://www.thewave.ca/2021/04/06/districts-prepare-buses-schools-for-return-of-high-school-students/

Planning continues on our new platform for the ASD-S websites using Word Press – to facilitate this work we have posted a one year position for a web designer and this position would work closely with Director Jessica Hanlon with support from Senior Technician, Ray Simpson, from St. Stephen Centre. Jessica and Ray have been working on this for quite some time, and it is exciting to now see things moving ahead.

OTHER

Wednesday, April 14 – Parent Teacher Day for K-12 with an evening time offered for parents as well as the morning of April 14. The conferences will again be virtual and offered on TEAMS.

The provincial Student Perception Surveys are happening in April for students in grades 4-12. The grade 9 ELPA (English Language Proficiency Assessment) is taking place in April and for the first time it is being offered on-line. A few months ago, Hampton High, St. Malachy's High and Belleisle Regional did a test run of this process, and it went very well, as this is all new for schools. Thank you to Nick Munn, Data and Accountability Supervisor who is supporting high schools on this journey.

Plans are taking shape for the three virtual Turnaround Achievement Award ceremonies being offered by Centre.

Saint John High School graduate, Younseo Heo, is one of two New Brunswick high school graduates among this year's winners of Loran Scholarships, awarded for service and leadership potential. She is among 25 students across the country who have each won \$100,000 over four years, along with summer job and networking opportunities. She had to file an online application, which included a few essays, and was interviewed via Zoom once during the semi-final round and many more times in the final round. Heo is co-president of Club H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Everywhere) at her school, co-founder of the math club, treasurer of the Key club (a leadership program sponsored by the Kiwanis Club), leads the altos in the school choir, is concertmaster for the district orchestra and volunteers at the hospital.